

REPORT

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

REVEALS POSITION OF JEWS IN POLAND

- 1 -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

STAT

RESTRICTED
RESTRICTEDJewish Cultural Life

Jewish cultural life in Poland is constantly on the decline. Though both Communist and Zionist publications in Yiddish and Polish are still being issued, their circulation is steadily decreasing.

There are five Jewish schools in Poland which teach in the Hebrew language, but there are no schools which use Yiddish as a medium of instruction. The special schools for Jewish children teach in the Polish language, but classes in Yiddish, Jewish literature, and Jewish history are given. These schools are supported by the government.

The Jewish religion is tolerated along with the other religions. There are places of worship, but no yeshivoth (Jewish theological seminaries).

Poland also has its "Red rabbi." He is Shalom Treistman, Rabbi of Wroclaw, the son of the former rabbi of Lodz. He had studied at the Rabbinical Seminary of Berlin under the eminent rabbi, Professor Chaim Heller. For a short time he officiated in Helsinki, Finland, after which he took office in Warsaw.

At the beginning of the war Rabbi Treistman fled to the USSR where he was interned. After the liberation he became a German and English instructor in a Soviet institute.

Soon after his return to Poland, this rabbi, who had once been active in the Polish Miztrachi, became a fervent follower of the people's democracy and Moscow. The Jewish Communists of Poland often use him for propaganda purposes, and have confirmed him as actual head of the Board of Rabbis.

Jewish Political Life

The Jewish Communists are in complete control of Jewish political life. The activities of the Zionist parties are very limited and there are no public displays.

Anti-Semitic feeling still runs strongly among the Poles. Physical violence against Jews, however, does not occur, just as attempts on the lives of Communists and government officials are not perpetrated. The government has the situation completely in hand.

Jewish Cooperatives

To date, there have been hundreds of Jewish cooperative workshops and factories which have been greatly propagandized by the Communists and which received great sums of money from the Joint Distribution Committee. Jews are now losing control of the largest cooperatives and even the small ones are gradually being taken over by non-Jews. The Communists have succeeded in changing the purely Jewish cooperatives into mixed ones. Several large mixed cooperatives already have 80 percent non-Jewish members.

When the Joint Distribution Committee declared that it would no longer aid these cooperatives, the Jewish Communists held protest meetings and resolved to do without any JDC aid whatsoever. The JDC clothing and food warehouses are being liquidated. They are, however, no longer necessary, as the economic situation of both the Jewish and Christian population is much improved.

Jewish Emigration from Poland to Israel

The informant is pessimistic concerning emigration from Poland to Israel. He estimates that not more than 5,000 Jews will leave, even though more than

- 2 -

RESTRICTED
RESTRICTED

STAT

RESTRICTED
RESTRICTED

20,000 have registered for immigration to Israel. This is due to the fact that some of the immigrants, among them special Communist agents, have returned to Poland from Israel and are spreading greatly exaggerated horror stories about the terrible conditions there. Of course, letters from unsettled immigrants, warning others not to come to Israel, do arrive. Furthermore Communist propaganda is constantly warning them not to go to that "Marshall country," Israel. Each emigrant must obtain confirmation from the strictly Communist Jewish Committee which discourages him to such an extent that he loses all desire to leave.

The informant implied that discouragement of emigration is also due to the fact that many Jewish Communist leaders would themselves very much like to go to "imperialistic reactionary" Israel but since they are afraid to admit this and must remain in Poland, they do not want to become generals without an army and therefore fear Jewish emigration to Israel.

Jews in the USSR

There is no normal contact between the Jews in the USSR and the Jews in Poland. The little news which reaches the Jews in Poland comes indirectly from Moscow. More news, however, is smuggled via Lvov.

From this latter source there has been news of deportations of Ukrainian Jews. It is not known whether masses or individuals are involved, but the fact is that a considerable number of Jews have been deported.

Recently, the news was heard in Warsaw that Moshe Broderson, the Jewish poet who had been arrested in Moscow, is again free. Other arrested Jewish Soviet authors, however, continue to be deported to labor camps. -- Yosef Shimson Goldstein

ISRAELI HUMORIST ARRIVES IN NEW YORK -- Jewish Journal, No 14,610, 1 Nov 49

Yosef Shimson Goldstein, renowned author and humorist, will arrive in New York today from Tel Aviv.

Goldstein, "the jolly pessimist," who is a contributor to the Jewish Journal, had figured greatly in the Jewish press of prewar Poland. He wrote and edited the feuilleton of the Haint, the largest Yiddish daily, and was editor of the humorous satirical magazines Takhshitz and Mashochith. He also wrote many successful plays.

After spending the war years in Nazi Poland and the USSR, Goldstein, who had been active in the Zionist movement, emigrated to Israel. There, he became a columnist for Hador, the Hebrew daily [Mapai organ], and also broadcast once a week over Kol Yisrael, the Israeli radio.

- E N D -

- 3 -

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED